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NORTH CAROLINA AND INDIANA.

A TIE THAT BINDS.

BY ADOLPH ROGERS.

[A paper read before the Henry County Historical Society at Newcastle, April 27, 1909.]

A RECENT visit to the old North State suggested this paper. It was my third visit to my ancestral State, for my mother's people, the Drapers, came from Perquimans county, while the Rogers's lived in Surry county, where my father was born and where several generations of my family lived before him. My mother's family were Quakers, while my father's people were Baptists. They were not owners of slaves, but were landlords, owning their own lands, and, I trust I may be permitted to say, were honest and God-fearing, and very worthy people to have for ancestors. Between the older States, from which came the first settlers and pioneers of our own State, there are strong ties of blood and sentiment, which bind the older and newer communities.

The region embraced in what are now Wayne, Randolph and Henry counties, in Indiana, lay in a favored region, midway between the Ohio river and the northern boundaries of the State. It was a favored region to the pioneer coming from the sterile fields of North Carolina and the unfertile and mountainous regions of Virginia and Tennessee. When the first settlements were made in the Whitewater valley and the territory adjacent, the country, excepting a few treeless tracts, was a dense forest. Giant trees of oak, walnut and poplar, destined later to become so important in the erection of homes and supplying them with furniture, reared aloft their majestic heads. Sugar trees, maples,

beech, hickory, elm, ash and other varieties of trees abounded in the forests. Magnificent sycamores grew in abundance along the numerous streams. The woods were full of game and the rivers and creeks teemed with fish. The climate was equable and the soil deep and fertile. But the long years of labor in clearing away the heavy forests, building homes and opening up of roads can scarcely be appreciated by the descendants of the noble men and women whose toils and privations and self-sacrifice in a frontier community laid the foundations of our State. No homage is too great to be paid to the memory of the brave pioneers who came from the South to eastern Indiana between the years 1810 and 1835, and contributed so much to the material, intellectual and moral development of the community.

The first settlers coming into the new State from North Carolina came principally from Perquimans, Iredell, Randolph, Guilford, Surry, Stokes, Forsyth and Davidson counties. In this connection it is interesting to note the history and traditions of a State which has contributed so much to our own life. In its history, North Carolina possesses a field as old and interesting as any of the New England colonies, for here great problems of life, both civil and religious, have been wrought out. Its coast was the scene of the first efforts of the English to colonize America, and though no trace remains of Sir Walter Raleigh's settlements, yet the capital of this old commonwealth worthily perpetuates his name. The settlement of the Carolinas began early in the seventeenth century, and long prior to the Revolution the settlements extended from the Atlantic coast to the Blue Ridge. The first settlers of North Carolina were principally Scotch-Irish, with an admixture of Germans, Huguenots and Moravians, and the settlements had so grown that at the time of the Revolution the colony had a population of a third of a million.

When the first census was taken, in 1790, but two States, Virginia and Pennsylvania, surpassed North Carolina in population. Including slaves, the population was 393,751, while Massachusetts had a population of 378,787. In religious belief the first inhabitants were principally Presbyterians, Moravians, Lutherans and Quakers. Religious toleration was a cardinal principle of the colony. A large number of North Carolina Quakers came into

Wayne, Randolph and Henry counties in the quarter of a century prior to 1835. These worthy people were opposed to slavery and sought new homes in the Northwest as a land of greater opportunity, and in the great struggle for the elimination of slavery from the territory north of the Ohio river, they were a prominent and decisive factor in favor of freedom.

The firm convictions of these newcomers into our State upon political and religious questions left a deep impress upon the new State. The first settlers of North Carolina were devoted to civil and religious liberty, and were not more attracted to the colony by reason of its genial climate and fertile soil than by its tolerance in religious matters. For all efforts to establish the English Church as an institution of the government failed in North Carolina. And as an instance of the patriotic spirit of the Carolinians, the encroachments of the mother country upon the rights of the people and numerous acts of tyranny so aroused the people of Mecklenburg county that the settlers in and about Charlotte, on May 20, 1775, promulgated the famous Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. A beautiful monument in the court-house yard at Charlotte commemorates the memory of the signers of this first Declaration. And when Lord Cornwallis invaded the old colony there was a rush to arms, and the battle of King's Mountain, in 1780, and of Guilford Court House, in 1781, were fought upon North Carolina soil.

And thus the first settlers of Indiana from North Carolina, schooled in religious liberty and love of country, and the Quakers especially, with their pronounced opposition to slavery, were a noble band of pioneers to form a new State. Among the North Carolina families who came into Henry county within the first few years after its organization in 1822, were the Bales's, Ballengers, Bogues, Boones, Bonds, Brookshires, Bundys, Byrkett's, Charles's, Coffins, Drapers, Elliott's, Forkners, Gardiners, Gilberts, Griffins, Halls, Hammers, Harveys, Healys, Henlys, Hinchaws, Hiatts, Hobsons, Hodsons, Holadays, Hollingsworths, Hubbards, Hutsons, Jeffrys, Jones's, Lambs, Macys, Mendenhalls, Modlins, Murpheys, Needhams, Newbys, Nicholsons, Nixons, Overmans, Palmers, Parkers, Paynes, Phelps's, Pierces, Piersons, Polks, Presnalls, Ratliffs, Reddings, Reeces, Rogers's,

Saints, Shellys, Staffords, Swaffords, Tweedys, Unthanks, Whites, Whitworths, Wickershams, Wilsons, and many other families whose names I do not now have knowledge of. Several of these North Carolina families first settled on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, and later migrated to the Carolinas. In the north part of our county, such well-known North Carolina families as the Koons's, the Fraziers, the Wests, Julians and Cannadays found homes. Some of these families and others came to Indiana from Tennessee, but were of North Carolina extraction.

In a society like this, devoted to historical research, and the majority of whose members are descended from the old North State, it is interesting to recall some of the traits of character of our ancestors. The people of North Carolina were ever conservative. It was one of the last colonies to adopt the Constitution of the United States. So great was the love of its people for the Union that it was one of the last States to secede. But when the shock of battle came in the great Civil War, no other Southern State, according to its population, contributed so many men to the ranks of the Confederate armies, and the per cent. of its losses upon the field of battle was larger than that of any other Southern State. And in the ranks of the armies of the North were thousands of brave men, descendants of Carolinians, rendering valiant service for the cause of the Union.

And there is also a tie of blood which binds many of our people to the old and historic State of Virginia. The first settlers of the northern portions of our county, and especially Prairie township, were from the Old Dominion, with an admixture of settlers from North Carolina, Tennessee and a few from other States. The Virginia families included the Beavers's, Bechtelheimers, Bouslogs, Bunners, Burners, Currents, Fadeleys, Garretts, Hales, Hartleys, Hedricks, Hess's, Hickmans, Hoovers, Huff's, Ices, Johnsons, Luellens, Maddys, Melletts, Millers, Painters, Peacocks, Peckenpaughs, Powers's, Reeds, Ridgways, Robes, Sanders's, Scotts, Shiveleys, Showalters, Stricklers, Swearingens, Vances, Veach's, Waters's, Whislers, Williams's, and others.

A considerable number of the first settlers of eastern Indiana and of Henry county came from other States than North Carolina and Virginia. Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Tennessee and

Kentucky contributed to our population, and a few came from New York, but there was very little of the New England element among the first inhabitants. A few persons of foreign birth were among the first settlers: John Anderson, one of the early associate judges, was a native of Ireland, and Colonel John J. Lemansky, famous as a teacher and preacher and man of affairs, was a native of Poland, and had served as an officer under the great Napoleon.

The early settlers from North Carolina found homes in the southern and western portions of the county. The majority of them were Friends, who, with their select schools and strict rules concerning marriage, were less liberal than now. But they were ever the friends of education, and led pure and upright lives. They were always the friends of the oppressed and the helpers of the poor and lowly in life. They were progressive in adopting the newer methods of agriculture and were prosperous, but for a long time painted churches, tombstones and music, tending, as they thought, to voluptuous thoughts, were held in disfavor. In politics they were first Whigs and then Freesoilers and Republicans, and under all circumstances most law-abiding citizens.

Many of the Virginia settlers possessed the hereditary pride of ancestry common to the first families of the Old Dominion. Some of them had been slave-holders, and the Hickmans brought with them their slaves and gave them liberty. Many of them were zealous in the cause of religion. A few families brought with them their hounds and hunters' outfits, for the customs and aristocratic diversions of their English ancestors were yet in vogue in their native State. They were conservative and slower than their North Carolina neighbors to give up the methods of farming used by their forefathers upon the hillsides of Virginia. In religion they were principally Baptists, and in politics Democrats. They were hospitable, chivalric toward woman, high-spirited and quick to resent an insult. With advancing years, the fine farms, beautiful homes and excellent highways, and the brick and frame churches and schoolhouses, taking the place of the woods and cabins and bridle paths of early times, came into existence, and while other States have contributed many noble men and women to make up the population of our county, no

other States have left such an abiding impress upon its material, political and intellectual development as North Carolina and Virginia.

I was greatly impressed during my recent visit to North Carolina with the improvements and advancement made since my first visit to the State.* Improved methods of farming are in vogue. Many of the old pine forests are being cleared up, and I saw numerous ditches in the low lands, reminding me of home. Mecklenburg county can give object lessons in road building, for here they cut down the high places and fill in the low places, making their fine macadam roads as level as streets.

But one thing brought a blush to the cheek of every descendant of the Carolinians, and that was the fact that the census of 1900 showed a larger per cent. of illiteracy in North Carolina than in any other State. There was some excuse for this. The population in many parts of the State is sparse, and the country mountainous. Happily, this condition of illiteracy is being removed. Some two millions of dollars, I was informed, were appropriated for educational purposes by the State, within a recent period, in addition to the local school revenues. In traversing a considerable portion of the State, a few weeks ago, I noticed new school-houses everywhere. They dot the mountain sides and the lowlands. And in the happy faces of the school children, upon the playgrounds, I could not have determined, except from the physical aspect of the country, whether I was in Indiana, Iowa or New York, so homogeneous are our people.

Unfailing courtesy is the rule everywhere. As I came out of Dobson in a buggy I met two countrymen in the pine woods, who lifted their hats to me. But a Southern gentleman lamented to me that the old-time Southern politeness was slowly disappearing. Commercialism has taken hold of the South, and there is a rush for wealth there, especially noticeable in the cities. With the vast resources of the South and its splendid climate this could hardly be otherwise. And when people are in a hurry or deeply engrossed, they are never quite so polite as when they have leisure. Slavery created a leisure class in the South who cultivated the amenities of life, and this traditional courtesy, even among all classes, is everywhere apparent.

*My first visit was in 1900.

While visiting my daughter in Charlotte, I read several editorials in that excellent newspaper, *The Charlotte Observer*, concerning the colloquialisms and peculiar expressions long in use in the Carolinas. There was not a word or expression mentioned which I had not heard as a boy in Indiana. And language and dialect is always a proof of kinship.

There is a genuine respect for the Sabbath in North Carolina, even in the cities and larger towns. The Sundays, in their quietude, reminded me of the Sundays in the old Sugar Grove neighborhood, west of Newcastle, when I was a boy. And the people are church-goers. A lady said to me that persons who did not attend some church would not long have any standing in the community. In the country I found some of the churches unlocked. Two of them I entered, and I reverently stood in the old Swan Creek Baptist Church, five miles from the beautiful little town of Elkin, where my ancestors had worshiped.

James Bryce, the British ambassador, recently said, in addressing the students of the University of California, that California is not only a State, but a country. It can truly be said that North Carolina is not only a State, but a country, stretching five hundred miles from the coast to its western extremity. It embraces every variety of soil, from the rice fields of the seaboard counties to the corn, wheat, cotton and tobacco fields, which I saw side by side in Iredell, Yadkin and Surry counties. More varieties of trees grow here than in any other State in the Union, and to this fact, Biltmore, near Asheville, the most magnificent country estate in America, owes its existence, for after investigation and with thorough knowledge upon the subject, George W. Vanderbilt selected western North Carolina, "the land of the sky," as the one place in the United States best adapted for the founding of a great country estate, where the greatest variety of trees, shrubs and plants might be cultivated in the greatest perfection. The climate ranges from the almost tropical temperature of the southeastern coast to that of colder countries, as found in the mountain regions, while the resources of the State are varied and practically inexhaustible.

The valuable publication recently issued by the Census Department, entitled "Heads of Families, First Census of the United

States: 1790," for the State of North Carolina, contains the name of my great-grandfather, Josiah Draper, in Perquimans county. My daughter, Mrs. Hugh Montgomery, and her husband and children, dwell in the beautiful city of Charlotte. It is a far cry from the time of the first census to the present, for my family in North Carolina, and this must be my excuse for dwelling so long upon the history and the splendid virtues of the people of this grand old commonwealth.